

due if Afghanistan slides back into chaos.

PROMOTING GENUINE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues would have you believe that there is a considerable amount of agreement between the two sides on how we should best enact health care reform. Well, I think the reality is we have substantial agreement on what the problems are, but very different opinions about how we go about approaching them.

As my colleague Mr. PASCRELL said, last week or 2 weeks ago they were waving this bill, one of many, H.R. 3400, at the President when he spoke here. They might as well have been waving the insurance companies' financial reports because this bill just provides another government subsidy to the insurance companies, which have put us in the big hole that we're in right now. Furthermore, they don't even pay for it.

We are interested in genuine health care reform that's going to provide security and stability for every American citizen and that will help fix Medicare so that it provides continuing great service to our seniors.

The Republican proposals don't do anything like that. We wish they would join us in a sincere effort to promote effective health care reform. We haven't seen that effort yet.

□ 1015

MEDIA IGNORE HEALTH CARE POLL

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a new Investor's Business Daily poll of more than 1,300 physicians found that nearly two-thirds do not support the administration's health care plan. More than 7 in 10 say the government cannot provide insurance coverage without harming quality.

IBD's findings contradict stories in the national media that claim most doctors support the administration's plan. The media know that the American Medical Association does not speak for all doctors. In fact, only 17 percent of all doctors belong to the AMA in large part because it is too liberal.

It's not a surprise that the national media ignored IBD's poll. It doesn't fit their agenda of more government control and less individual freedom.

NATION'S HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM IS BROKEN

(Mr. HEINRICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, it's clear that our Nation's health insurance system is broken and that the status quo is simply unsustainable.

Over the last decade, health insurance premiums in New Mexico have grown 118 percent for the average family, compared to just 50 percent growth in wages. Again, the cost of health insurance grew more than twice as much as wages earned by New Mexico's working families. That same trend has made health care insurance unaffordable for more than one in five adults who went uninsured last year.

Mr. Speaker, we must hold insurance companies accountable for these skyrocketing costs. If we are successful in health insurance reform, we will lower the cost of care for our families. Seniors will actually be able to afford their medications all year long, small businesses will save money, and it will end this impediment to this Nation's competitiveness in the 21st century economy. We simply cannot afford to let this historic opportunity slip away.

CONGRESS NEEDS TIME TO READ BILLS

(Mr. WALDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues to join me and Congressman BRIAN BAIRD and Congressman CULBERSON in signing a discharge petition to change the rules of the House so that Members of Congress have at least 72 hours to read bills like this.

This is the so-called stimulus. We had 12 hours. Now, the Speaker has said we will all have 24 hours. We are asking for 72. The stimulus was 1,073 pages, \$787 billion.

This is the cap-and-tax bill, 16½ hours to digest it, 1,428 pages, \$846 billion.

We should have a chance to read these bills and understand them. Congressman BAIRD and about 90 of us are cosponsors of H.R. 544. It's time to bring it to the floor for a vote. Sign the discharge petition.

Let's bring sunshine into the process. Let's allow Americans, their Representatives and the press the time to read these bills before we have to vote on them here on the House floor.

AGREE ABOUT HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, let's all agree about three things when it comes to health care reform. The first message has to be we have to fix what is broken and improve on what we already have and make certain it's at a price we can all afford to pay.

Secondly, and this is in every piece of legislation moving through Congress

on health care, we have to guarantee that no citizen anywhere in this country shall be discriminated against because of preexisting medical conditions.

Isn't it time to finally establish a transparent medical marketplace where all prices for health care service and products are openly disclosed to the public at all times on the Internet? Isn't it time that every customer, when they go to the doctor or hospital or purchase insurance policies, gets to pay the lowest price that's openly disclosed and accepted as payment in full from everyone else?

It's time to have a transparent medical system and make sure that we can drive down prices for everyone.

CMS GAG RULE

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration keeps trying to silence critics of its government-run health care plan. This week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services decided that Medicare Advantage plans were offering the wrong opinions about the health care bill. So CMS ordered them to stop telling their customers about the proposed cuts to Medicare benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this Chicago-style politics is a shocking abuse of power that flies in the face of the President's call for open and honest debate. It's time to remind the President and CMS that all Americans have a constitutional right to speak their mind, even when that holds back a government takeover of health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM MUST BE DONE

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, health care reform is an imperative. We must get it done now. People want to know and deserve to know what's in it for them.

If you are a senior, it means continued quality medical care and lower prescription drugs. If you are a small business, it means you can afford health care for your family, for yourself, for your employees, and you will get help doing it.

If you have a preexisting condition, diabetes, a heart condition, multiple sclerosis, even acne, you won't be excluded from getting quality affordable health care. If you are a young person no longer on your parents' insurance, it means you can choose insurance you can afford. If, like millions of Americans, most Americans, you already have insurance, you like it, you keep it and you won't see skyrocketing premiums, deductibles and copays.